

Leaving
Denbigh
Weardale

Rural District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1957

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Rural District Council.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health—G. A. MACGREGOR. M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector—R. G. SUDDICK, Cert., R.S.I., Lond.

WEARDALE R.D.C.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1957

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid year)	8,930
Area (In Acres) ...	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1957) ...	3,115
Rateable Value (Mid 1957) ...	£92,868
Product of Penny Rate ...	£328 3s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	123	57	66
Illegitimate	3	2	1
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	126	59	67
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Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...			14.11
General Birth Rate (England and Wales) ...			16.1

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	-----	-----	-----
	—	—	—
	-----	-----	-----
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) ...			14.11

DEATHS

	Total	Males	Females
	134	71	63
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			15.0
Death Rate (England and Wales) ...			11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	1	—	1
	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live Births	...	...	7.93
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales	...	...	23.0
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	18
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	..	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the past 6 years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate Under 1 year	Birth Rate
1952	13.73	20.20	10.88
1953	13.83	—	11.08
1954	16.37	18.10	12.08
1955	14.14	52.63	10.50
1956	13.79	9.17	12.12
1957	15.00	7.93	14.11

CAUSES OF DEATHS

			Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	1	0
2	Tuberculosis Other	..	0	0
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	0	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	...	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	2	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	0	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast..	...	0	4
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus...	...	0	1
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	6	2
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	18	20
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	14	7
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	1	1
20	Other Heart Diseases	...	8	8
21	Other circulatory Diseases	...	2	5
22	Influenza	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	4	3
24	Bronchitis	...	1	0
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	...	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	0	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	...	0	0
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	5	6
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	5	0
34	All Other Accidents	...	3	3
35	Suicide	...	0	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	0	0
Total			71	63

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	—	—	—
Measles	178	—	—
Whooping Cough	59	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	3	—
Tuberculosis	5	1	1

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diptheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1952	—	—	7	—
1953	1	—	21	—
1954	—	—	8	—
1955	—	—	2	—
1956	—	—	2	—
1957	—	—	5	—

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1957

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	2	5	9	38	5	—	—	—	—	59
Measles	2	21	28	109	13	5	—	—	—	178
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 44 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 64 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
64 and over	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total ...	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1952	2	3	5	1	—	—	—	—
1953	3	5	8	—	—	—	—	—
1954	1	1	2	2	—	1	—	—
1955	4	1	5	—	1	—	—	—
1956	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
1957	4	1	5	—	1	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplies in the Council's area of supply were well maintained and no shortage arose.

Samples of water from each of the separate systems were taken and sent for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

Samples of water were also taken of six private supplies to farms in connection with grants under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and these were found to be suitable for human consumption.

The re-laying of a portion of the main from Cross Hill to Paragon Street, Stanhope was carried out and improvements to the supply from Crawleyside to Ashcroft, Stanhope were in progress.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No major improvement works to the various sewage works in the district were carried out but the general maintenance and cleaning of filtration areas was effected.

Consultations and inspections were carried out in connection with new drainage (septic tank) installations.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Owners of houses not on the water carriage system were informed of the Council's scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost up to a maximum of £12 for conversions, and during the year grants were made involving 54 dry closets.

Including the conversions carried out under the Housing Improvement Grant Scheme and the erection of new dwellings, the types of closets at the end of the year were:—

Water Closets	2124
Ash-Closets	664
Ash-pit Privies	202.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The scavenging area was extended to cover the hamlet of East Black Dene.

The three vehicles were able to give a fairly frequent service and during the year the estimated weight of refuse removed was 5,415 tons, the vehicles covering 22,876 miles.

Refuse was disposed of at the main tip at Frosterley, also at Cowshill and Rookhope.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The whole-time rodent operator was engaged on disinfection of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips and sewer fields.

Treatment of the sewers was carried out in accordance with the instructions received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

No charge is made for treatment carried out on private dwellings but work on business premises and farms is recoverable on the basis of actual cost plus overhead expenses.

Of the properties inspected treatment was carried out on 158 dwelling-houses; 15 business premises and farms and 15 other properties (refuse tips etc.).

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections were carried out of the shops and food preparing premises in the district. No formal action was necessary and on the whole the standard of these premises is satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections of the registered slaughter houses were carried out and minor defects were remedied without formal action. The state of cleanliness was generally satisfactory.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale or human consumption on 38 instances (mainly tinned food) and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary, there being few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance.

FACTORIES ACTS.

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and defects were remedied in two instances following informal action.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department during the year:—

Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	186
Housing (Overcrowding)	3
Sanitary Conveniences	170
Drainage	48
Water Supply	34

Food Premises	136
Shops Acts	42
Dairies	3
Slaughter Houses	38
Tents, Vans etc.	12
Factories and Workplaces	46
Keeping of Animals	5
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	146
Offensive accumulations	2
Smoke Abatement	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests	65

NUISANCES ETC.

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with by means of notices :—

	No of Informal Notices served	No of Statutory Notices served	Defects Remedied
Public Health & Housing Acts	11	10	20
Sanitary Conveniences	85	—	64
Drainage	2	—	2
Food Premises	2	—	2
Slaughter Houses	1	—	1
Factories & Workplaces	2	—	2
Keeping of Animals	2	—	2
Ashpits and Receptacles	7	65	54

HOUSING.

Further inspections were carried out in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance programme.

18 new houses at Wolsingham were completed and occupied. The total number of new houses erected by the Council since 1946 being 415.

Four new dwellings were also erected during the year by private enterprise.

Interviews and inspections in connection with applications for Housing Improvement Grants took place during the year 35 applications were approved and one refused.

I have the honour to be

Yours obediently,

G. A. MACGREGOR.



